

HOUSE BILL 480
By Harwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050, relative to home-school students eligibility to participate in extracurricular school activities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3050, is amended by adding the following new, appropriately designated subsections:

(d)

(1) Home school students shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be permitted to participate in all extracurricular school activities sponsored or conducted by their local school district including, but not limited to, athletics, music, drama, art and speech. In order to participate:

(A) The home school student must meet all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of the school district's school or class attendance requirements;

(B) The home school student must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates or intends to participate;

(C) The home school parent-teacher must certify that the student is making academic progress in a manner consistent with academic eligibility standards for students in the public school; and

(D) If requested by the principal of the school for which the home school student is participating or intends to participate, the parent-teacher shall supply evidence of academic achievement testing or other evidence of academic progress acceptable to the principal in order to maintain academic eligibility.

(2) The home school student shall be required to fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related practice requirements, of other students participating in the extracurricular activities of the group, team or squad and shall be required to meet the same standards for acceptance required for students of the public school participating in such activity. The home school student must also comply with all requirements of the public school during the time of participation.

(3) The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall promulgate a rule to effectuate the provisions of this subsection with respect to such participation by home school students in athletic programs.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.